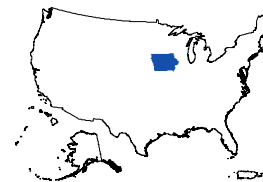


2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus—

Harold and Ruth DeBruin of Fremont have been farming since 1971. They raise corn, soybeans, hay, and 100 head of cattle on about 900 acres. For several years, the DeBruin's have been facing erosion and water quality concerns on their land mainly because of weak stands of forage grasses and legumes. Working with local NRCS personnel, DeBruin made plans to reduce erosion and to improve water quality, forage production, and nutrient management on his land. They developed a prescribed grazing system that included pasture, hayland, and critical area plantings, a livestock water tank, and brush and nutrient management plans.

Since enrolling 88 acres of pasture in EQIP in 1999, the benefits have been stacking up. The DeBruins established 12 paddocks, several pastures were converted from cropland and seeded to eastern gammagrass, a warm-season, native plant that provides good forage for summer grazing. Rotating the cattle through the paddocks allows better re-growth of forage and reduced erosion, especially on the pastureland converted from cropland. Results from soil samples sent to Iowa State University for testing are used to plan nutrient applications. He plans to interseed several pastures with legumes in the future to establish a more diverse forage mix for grazing and to reduce the need for nitrogen inputs.

The DeBruins may not have been able to install these practices without the assistance from EQIP and NRCS. "EQIP provided us with the dollars to begin establishing and using a rotational grazing system sooner than we would have on our own," says DeBruin. "NRCS and Extension people helped design our paddocks and provided information to consider in making this all work better. We have also got a lot of information from meetings and farm tours we have attended."

Iowa Summary

Overview

Since the beginning of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the land users of Iowa have shown a great interest in using the program to help them protect natural resources. In 4 years, 4,100 applications requesting a total of nearly \$41 million of EQIP funds have been received. A total of \$15.5 million of EQIP funds received in Iowa has allowed funding of 2,240 applications. The funds were used primarily to treat resource concerns related to livestock production, reduce soil erosion, and improve water quality.

Accomplishments

This year, \$3.3 million in conservation cost-share funds were available to Iowa farmers through EQIP. Of these funds, \$2.3 million were designated for 46 priority areas across Iowa. These funds resulted in the development of 313 EQIP contracts. About \$1 million in remaining EQIP funds were awarded to Iowa farmers with statewide priority resource concerns, including livestock manure and pasture management, soil erosion, and water quality. These EQIP monies funded a total of 125 contracts covering approximately 21,000 acres. NRCS received many more applications for the statewide priority resource concerns than could be funded.

Livestock manure and pasture management concern:

- NRCS received 151 applications for \$1.3 million in cost-share.
- NRCS funded 69 contracts covering 13,500 acres for \$503,000 in cost-share.

Soil erosion concern:

- NRCS received 120 applications for \$1.2 million in cost-share.
- NRCS funded 38 contracts covering 4,318 acres for \$304,000 in cost-share.

Priority water quality concern:

- NRCS received 22 applications for \$151,000 in cost-share.
- NRCS funded 18 contracts covering 3,000 acres for \$129,000 in cost-share.

Outlook

With additional EQIP dollars, Iowa would be able to fund treatment of locally identified critical resource concerns included in priority areas. Additional applications for priority statewide concerns could be funded allowing producers to treat resource concerns identified on their farms.

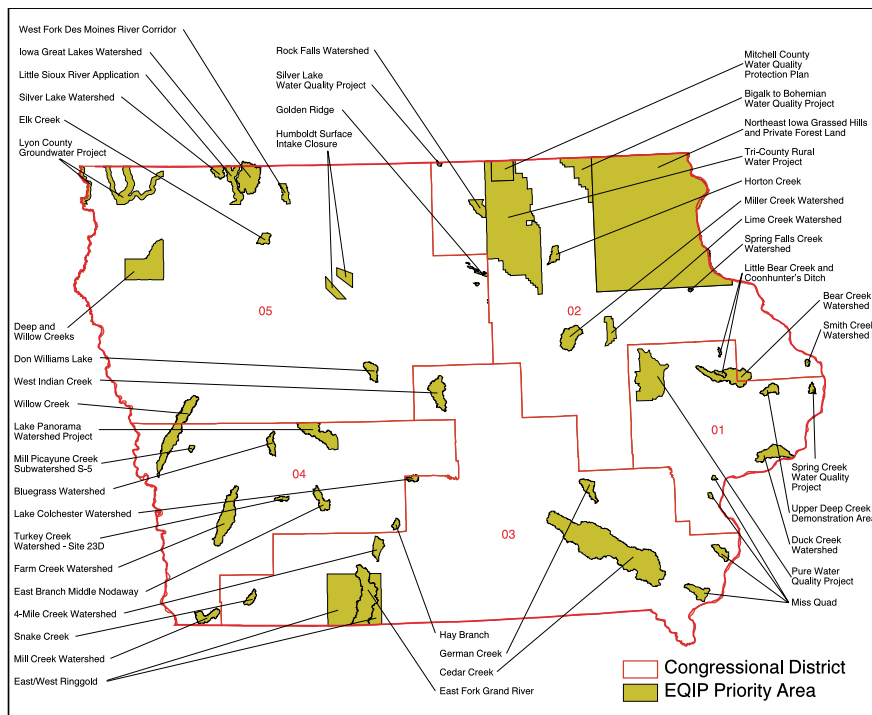
State Contact

Larry Beeler, Resource Conservationist, (515) 284-4135



NRCS District Conservationist Kevin Funni says that DeBruin put a lot of thought into his grazing plan and goals. "He did some research on this own, talking to people, going to farm tours and meetings. He took his time considering what he was getting into and how it works. "And I think that's what it takes when considering a new system," says Funni. "In the end, I think EQIP made it easier for him to swing this system and it's management."

Iowa EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Iowa EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2000	Total	Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 0	\$914,221	117	\$3,751,267	482
District 1	177,368	24	1,285,569	171
District 2	383,632	57	1,920,611	318
District 3	821,321	121	3,309,149	434
District 4	350,342	40	1,357,211	171
District 5	440,444	79	\$3,867,124	551
State Totals	\$3,087,328	438	\$15,490,931	2,127

Note: EQIP contracts for each Congressional District are estimated from Conservation Priority Areas, which may include more than one district.

Congressional District 0 = EQIP Contracts for Statewide Natural Resource Concerns, which can be in any Congressional District in the state.

Source: FSA Recordset type01, data through 4th quarter FY2000

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